

# The Canyon News

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## With Country-boy Image, Dowlen's Been Successful Prosecutor

You wouldn't call it slouching, really, but there sits George Dowlen, his head a foot below the top of the Judge's bench, trying to make his slim six-foot-plus frame conform to the prosecutor's unyielding wooden chair.

The props are always the same as he sits there, the eraser end of a No. 2 pencil clenched between his teeth. A manilla folder chock full of every conceivable kind of document sits opened just to the right and a little behind his shoulder. A long, legal-size yellow pad with hastily scribbled

notes positioned so when his teeth release the eraser the pencil automatically falls into place on the paper. And, an ashtray filled with cigarette butts, lots of cigarette butts.

He has his feet kind of propped up there on the back of the other chair at the prosecution-defense table and he's watching the defense attorney pace back and forth in front of the jury.

The slouch quickly becomes a full-length spire and Dowlen is on his feet to object.

It is with deliberation that

Dowlen takes to his feet, the defense counsel's argument completed.

He pulls a cigarette from his shirt pocket, reaches into his coat pocket for lighter and fires up slowly as he approaches the jury box.

"Ladies and gentlemen of the jury," he begins. It's a nasal twang, that's all you could call it, falling onto the jury's ears as ribbon cane syrup slides from a spoon onto hot biscuits.

The drawl is slow, deliberate, each word chosen for its impact.

Not a staccato, machine-gun presentation. More a machete, chopping the defense to pieces meticulously.

That's not to say, the courtroom is Dowlen's stage and he but an actor in human drama. That's the stuff of TV soap operas.

No, this is Dowlen's life, a life of intense pressure and emotion, a life he's loved for 10 years.

As Randall County's district attorney for the past decade, Dowlen has been at once the real-life villain, threatened by mid-

night telephone callers or from the witness box (one grudge-harbing convict yelled at Dowlen from the Randall County jail as the DA crossed the street, "George Dowlen, I'm gonna wring your scrawny neck."), or the good guy.

He leaves his Canyon district attorney office Jan. 1 to become another player in the courtroom drama — district judge of the 181st District Court in Amarillo.

For the youngish district attorney, the bench is just another step on a ladder of ever-higher

public service opportunities.

As a youngster on his father's ranch near Ralph Switch in the southern portion of Randall County, Dowlen was imbued with the desire to serve in public office and with the fire to become active in politics.

"Probably politics was the most discussed subject in the family," Dowlen remembers. His grandfather, a pioneer Randall County resident, was active in politics, and his father, Glenn Dowlen, was a county commissioner here for years.

For Dowlen, politics is not the dirty side of Watergate, but the system which affects everybody's life on a daily basis.

"Right here in Canyon, we've seen over and over again that government and politics affect Canyon in countless ways," he said. "The budget appropriation for West Texas, the kind of law enforcement we have, the fire protection here in the community, all these things affect every citizen and affect them in a dramatic way every day of their lives."

A product of the Depression, a Democrat from a long line of Democrats, it struck Dowlen during his sophomore year in high school that the law provided a mechanism for him to become involved in the system of government, that organism which affects people every day of their lives.

"You see, the practice of law is basically a search for the truth — I'm talking about trial law — it's a search for the truth," he says. "And, whether it's a judge or a jury that determines a given case that is their ultimate goal and that's what justice is."

"When someone serves on a jury very frequently that'll be the one chance they'll have to give an ultimate decision on anything."

The "search for the truth" aspect of law fascinated Dowlen through law school and he decided to make trial law his specialty.

"To me trial law is the most interesting aspect of the law," he said. "I have been in private practice and I've done some real estate work, some general office type practice and I've never found in them the fascination I've found being in court."

Dowlen, although a chain-smoker when he's prosecuting a particularly intricate or important case in court, is a meticulous planner for his courtroom forays. It's his field, the thing he loves.

"I guess there's a little bit of ham in me," he says with a smile. "But, it's the one shot to really get to the truth of a matter and see that justice is done."

Following a stint in the Army, Dowlen took on his first law job as a prosecutor in the Amarillo city prosecutor's office. Then, he went into private practice before returning to the prosecution side of the table when the late T.G. Hull Jr. became ill and later died.

"I prefer the prosecution side probably because that's where I really got started," Dowlen says.

When Dowlen started as criminal DA for the county, he was a part-time prosecutor, working three to four hours per day and keeping up his private practice.

"The job has grown as the county becomes more and more populous and now it's easily a 50-60 hour a week job on the average," he said, "and that's with two assistants who put in reasonably long hours."

While the county has grown and his case load has grown, so has Dowlen's reputation as a tough prosecutor. Last year, in fact, he was voted Prosecutor of the Year by a state attorney group.

The key to courtroom success, he says, is knowing and understanding what's in those manilla folders he keeps at his side in the courtroom.

Preparation is the first tenet of a good trial lawyer.

"Secondly, you have to establish a rapport with the jurors in a jury case," he said. "Now, if you try to be phony and not be yourself, then they sense that something is wrong, that you're cheating them in some way and this can tear your case to pieces."

Dowlen doubts he could cast a phony shadow if he tried. For one thing there's that Ralph Switch twang of his.

"You know," he said, "I have a very good education and I've studied with some people who are nationally known for their expertise. Yet, I realize I talk like I just got off the tractor out at Ralph Switch and haven't gone past the third grade."

It's that voice that establishes the special rapport with juries which defense attorneys have a hard time overcoming.

"I went to Jack Walker (West Texas State speech instructor) some time ago and I said 'Gosh, I get kidded about the way I talk and how slow it is and how about me taking some speech courses.' He discouraged me. He said you just have to be yourself and it would be a detriment if I really tried to change."

His jury arguments, his prosecution questions are still directed in the deepest of West Texanese. And, he believes it's been an asset in his years dealing with juries.

Dowlen also credits his assistants of the past few years with aiding him in a successful prosecution record.

"I've had some assistants who are as good as anybody could ever hope to have, people who'd be assets in any prosecutors' or law office," he said. He cites such assistants as Mike Hinton, now a deputy prosecutor in Houston, who once accidentally discharged a loaded revolver into Dowlen's office door. Hinton is preparing to prosecute the infamous Halloween Candy Mur-

(See DOWLEN, page 5)

## Senior Citizens Seek Building Funds

Canyon senior citizens called on Randall County commissioners Monday to help them finance the old Neblett Hospital building in downtown Canyon for senior citizen activities.

Tom Beard, representing the Canyon Senior Citizens Association, asked the commission for funds to finance the \$30,000 structure, which is due to be abandoned in February when hospital services move to the new Palo Duro Hospital.

Citing U.S. Census Bureau figures of the 65 and over population in Randall County, Beard said the group anticipates a membership of 1000 persons when in full gear.

"The thing we wanted to talk to you about is money," Beard said. "There couldn't be a need any more urgent than what we have here. We have no place to meet."

Beard said the group, now about 180 strong, has been meeting in the Canyon Community Center on a one-night-a-week basis, but would like to expand programs to include arts and crafts, university courses and serving of a noon meal.

Beard did not indicate a specific figure in the request, but indicated members of the group might be able to raise several thousand dollars themselves.

The group has begun a fund-raising campaign to raise the \$30,000 needed to buy the hospital building and half-block of property. Donations may be made at the First National Bank or West Texas State Bank.

Beard said finances are needed to purchase the building within the next 30 days.

"We thought maybe you were in the position with the federal money coming in, you might be able to transfer some to use for this building," he said.

Beard said the group feels certain it can receive other

federal or state funds possibly through the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission.

Commissioners were not enthusiastic in embracing the proposal and took no action on the request.

Commissioners Paul Lindsey and John Fulgenzi questioned the stability of the 30-year-old structure and also wondered if the building could be adequately remodeled.

Beard said volunteer help from senior citizens was available to remodel the building and said the group has been told the building can be remodeled suitably.

The senior citizens association has been active in Canyon since May. It became a formally chartered organization last month.

In other business Monday, commissioners approved and signed a new contract with the City of Amarillo for that entity's taxing office to supply various kinds of information to the Randall County tax office for an annual fee of \$13,000. The contract, Mrs. Audrey Bruse, tax assessor said, is identical to last year's contract, which ran out in October. But, she said, a \$2000 fee had been added for "cost of living."

The contract calls for the city to furnish Mrs. Bruse's office with reports on new construction inside the city limits within Randall County and also with a complete business tax listing with 100 per cent values.

Mrs. Bruse asked commissioners informally if they would be in favor of extending for another year a similar contract between the county and city whereby the county provides for about \$9000 a complete automobile listing to the city.

Commissioners generally approved with Fulgenzi adding the

(See SENIOR, page 5)



YESTERDAY THE TREE WAS TRIMMED WITH PACKAGES OF SURPRISE UNDERNEATH AND NOW WITH TINSEL WRAP AND CHEER THE CITY'S MAINTENANCE MEN KNOW THAT IT'S A REAL NEW YEAR!

### School Funding Predicted To Be Major Change

## Local Officials Begin Biennial Worries Over New Laws

After a year of rest, county, city and school district officials are bracing themselves for a lot of late-night reading and early-morning lobbying as they examine various early proposals they feel will make their way into the state legislature in mid-January.

If the 1975 session is anything like previous legislative sessions, the officials will be hard-pressed to keep up with the thousands of bills which cram the legislative calendar during the three-month period.

Already, state groups which represent the city, county and

school district have begun turning out predictions on bills which can be expected and projections on how they might fare under legislative scrutiny.

The bills which are already almost sure-fire for introduction in the legislature would have far-reaching impact on the govern-

mental agencies in Randall County.

Everything from a complete restructuring of school finance systems to the formation of a state utilities regulation commission are likely to be introduced.

County Judge Woody Pond has been receiving information from the Texas Association of Counties and the Texas County Judges and Commissioners Association since the close of the special constitutional convention last summer about projected bills which he can expect to see touted during the session.

Of most concern to Pond is a

revision of the Texas Constitution Article on the Judiciary, a hotly contested item which dealt in the defeat of a proposed constitution last summer in Austin.

Pond was among several hundred county judges and commissioners who joined forces with discontent district attorneys to make it tough going for a judiciary article in the con-con, an article which called for a unified court system.

He'll be back in Austin on Jan. 15 when the legislature opens to examine the latest proposed changes to the judiciary article.

Pond said early information indicates the House Judiciary Committee, headed by DeWitt Hale, has written a new proposal to change the constitutional provision. He said the new proposal is apparently much akin the judiciary article which was one portion of the proposed constitutional change package.

Pond said general feeling in Austin is that the proposal won't have much trouble in passage.

If, he said, the measure is like the one presented and finally included in the proposed constitution last summer, county judges will probably be supportive of the measure.

The county judges, fearing that tampering with the article would eliminate their judicial function, lobbied heavily against provisions to establish constitutional circuit courts in the state in early drafts of the constitution.

"I think we're in pretty good shape unless they add something," Pond said.

Another piece of legislation which Pond expects to see come before the legislature concerns land use in rural areas.

He said he might favor an article which would give counties limited ordinance-making powers to control zoning in rural areas.

City Manager George Loudder said one major issue which will face the legislators will be possible formation of a state utilities commission.

While the Texas Municipal League, voting last month, turned thumbs down on a recommendation for a utilities commission, powerful support from Houston is anticipated to form such a commission, which would

specifically regulate such firms as the telephone company.

The Canyon city commission has gone on record favoring a limited utilities commission with each city turning regulation cases over to it on an optional basis.

Loudder said he expects the legislature to grapple with allowing state agencies to become agents of the federal government in regulating certain activities.

What to do with the sales tax will also be a question which the city will watch with concern. Some have proposed that cities be given a larger bite out of the sales tax revenues. Under the current law, merchants collect a 5 per cent sales tax with 1 cent returning to the city.

Labor relations between city employees and governing units will probably also be on the agenda, Loudder said, and while it may not have a direct impact in Canyon, other Texas cities will feel strong reverberations from legislation.

Loudder said since the Canyon

(See LOCAL, page 5)

## Forehand Family Enjoys Holiday

Welcoming someone special home for Christmas is always a time to rejoice — but in the case of the Forehand family at 1902 3rd Avenue the hopes of a family reunion with their son, Kelly, added a special dimension to the happy atmosphere of Christmas at the home where sadness had prevailed before.

Kelly, a senior at Canyon High School, was injured seriously in a football game with Caprock High School back in September and since that time the Forehand family has spent much time in waiting rooms and hospitals. Since Nov. 2 Kelly has been at the Texas Institute for Rehabilitation undergoing treatment to restore his youthful body so that he may lead a productive life.

Kelly was welcomed home this week by his "Mom," JoAnn, his "Dad," Roy, and his sisters, Vicki and Kim.

After spending about two weeks at home with the family, Kelly will be returning to Houston for three more weeks of tests and rehabilitation.

And so with Kelly home for Christmas the entire Forehand family expresses their utmost appreciation to friends throughout the community and area for their concern, and care for a young man and his family in their time of trial.



COVERING FUMBLE

by Dean Mirth Jones

I am adjusted to the fact that I cannot do things that I once did — but I have developed a little fear that I never could do them.





Happy News

Mr. & Mrs. Santa Give Gifts

By MARY NEAL HENRY  
"CHRISTMAS ON THIRD Street" was the theme of the Happy High School Christmas Banquet. Pat Sims was Master of Ceremonies for the evening and welcomed the group to the banquet. Kyle Todd pronounced the invocation. Barbecue was the feast for the evening.  
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Steward of Nazareth entertained during the program. Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus presented the awards.  
Freshman favorites were Mary Watson and Danny Bell. Sophomore favorites were Suzanne SoRelle and Donnie Oler. Junior favorites were Dayna Venhaus and Terry McDonald. Senior favorites were Amy Wallace and Andy Butler.  
Campus favorites were Amy Wallace and Johnny Payne. Wittiest were Darlene McKelvey and Steve Crabtree. Most beautiful was Gay Venhaus. Most handsome was Johnny Payne.  
Because of all the rains during football season, Happy High was unable to have a bonfire. At this banquet they lit a candle, and crowned Dayna Venhaus and Richard SoRelle Flame queen and king.  
Mrs. Santa Claus was portrayed by Miss Connie Richardson (and hilariously so, I was told). Rick Hittinger, band instructor, portrayed Santa Claus. Several gag gifts were also presented during the evening.



afternoon of last week. They exchanged gifts and were served open face Christmas tree sandwiches, snowball cookies, and spiced tea.  
Present were Guy Faye Via, Jane Thornton, Cathy Coile and her Guy, Marcia Leach, Jill Moudy, Carolyn Kimbrell, Kathy Holland, Omega Leavitt and her Ricky, Leona Coile and Edna Fortner. Leona and Edna served as co-hostesses.

**SHELLEY PETERSON** WAS eleven years old last week. She had a slumber party on Friday evening at her home. The group, Angelique Henry, Kaye Lynn Stubblefield, Connie Venhaus, Kelly Weavers, Molly Parker, Angela Parker, and Patti Peterson, had hot dogs and pizza for supper and later birthday cake and ice cream.

**SUSAN COPE GAVE** Laura Fellers a going away party on Saturday evening. Others present were Andrea Payne, Christi McCaslin, Patti Luker, Raphe Shipman, Wade Bell, Jay Oler.  
The group presented Laura with farewell gifts and were served refreshments of candy, chips and dips, cake and soft drinks. They played games and then all went to the Sock Hop.  
Gay and Jim Fellers will be moving to Odessa right after Christmas. They were given a farewell party and money tree on Saturday evening in the Catholic Hall. The money tree was a silver artificial Christmas tree decorated with Santa Clauses. Each Santa had money in his pack.  
A delicious charcoal steak, baked potato, salad, tea and dessert were served to the honorees Jim and Gay, Margaret and Al Murock and grandson, Cory Neil, Susan and Lloyd Rahlfs, and Little Lloyd. Fay and Jo Hand, Mary and Duane Stubblefield, Dean Bryan, Wauwayne and Wayne Cope, Bill and Vicki Whitlow, Chris and Lynn Ritter and Mary Neal and Tom Henry. Travene and Richard Vermeire were the hosts of the party.

**ROGER WILSON** WAS married to Suzanne Honhaker, a WTSU student and former resident of Rotan, on Friday afternoon at the WTSU chapel. Both these young people work at the Pizza Hut in Canyon, but are now on a honeymoon in New Mexico. We wish them happiness.

**SWEETIE AND CONE** Johnson had a Christmas dinner and Yachtzee party last weekend for Lou Rose and Earl Bell Cosby, Leona and Merle McFarland, Frank and Gracie Tirey and Mildred and Willard Middleton. This group also exchanged gifts.

**THE PENN FAMILY** had their Christmas in Mr. and Mrs. Billy Penn's new home in Amarillo on Oxbow, on Sunday.

**THERE WAS A Shipman** family Christmas tree on Sunday in Amarillo at the Jerry Dustman home.

**WE HAD CHRISTMAS** family dinner and the tree at Mother's in Amarillo on Sunday. The Dyer family had planned to drive up from Fort Worth, but were unable to at the last minute.  
All the rest of the family was there, Helen and Cecil Hayes and their Jack and Mike. Also Susan and Walter Miller and a couple who were their friends, Frances

and Red Matthews and their Dean, Deborah, Darrell and Diane and their three month old Stephanie, David and Jackie and their four year old Brandy, and five month old Briss; and Tom and I and our Sheri, Ken, J.T. and Angelique. Auntie, Lois Harding and her grandson Matt Harding, also came by for the Christmas tree.

**SUSAN AND WALTER** Miller attended the class reunion of the Canyon High classes in Amarillo on Saturday evening. It was well attended, but they were disappointed that more did not attend — especially those who live so close. I told her that is the way it always is.  
Those from miles away "break their necks" to make the reunion and those who could just make plans and manage to be there are the ones who don't manage to make it. It is disappointing. If the shoe fits, wear it, you exes.

**BILLY DALE ANDREWS** is "home" for the holidays. Billy Dale has been stationed in Greenland.

**CHARLES WRENN** FAMILY is in Happy for the holidays — or at least part of them.

**JIM AND JANIE** Johnson and their son was in the church services on Sunday morning. Laura, their younger daughter, is expecting her first child just after Christmas. Laura and her husband live in Idaho.

**SUSAN AND BILL** Vernon arrived early Sunday morning for the Christmas holidays.

**BILLY ED AND** Marcus Conway and their Laura and Will Mack arrived last week to spend the holidays at "home."

**GARY AND JO** Via from Dallas arrived in Amarillo on Monday evening to spend Christmas with family. They have to fly back to Dallas on Christmas night. Gary has a new job with Petro-Fina Oil Co. Ronnie and Sheila Via and their Shonda and Darren, Mrs. Ima Harrison of Silverton, Mrs. Minnie Via, Joe Bob Via, Becky and Guy Walt all had Christmas in the Walter Via home on Christmas Eve.

**BROTHER AND MRS.** Paul Heil and family spent Christmas in Follett with Mrs. Heil's parents.

**BARRY STEVENS** will be teaching in Pringle next semester.

**MR. AND MRS.** Herbert Wilkes celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and were honored with a reception on Sunday afternoon in Fellowship Hall of the First Baptist Church.

**OUR SYMPATHY** TO Mrs. Letha Fullerton. Her husband, Ray Fullerton, was buried in Canyon last week. We extend our consolation to the whole family.

**DRIVE SAFELY** DURING these holidays. Pause and remember to be thankful for your blessings. Make those New Year's resolutions and this time, plan to keep them. One is never so tall as when on their knees in prayer. And if you want those prayers answered, when you get up off your knees, hustle!  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
Remember the Cowboy Christmas Ball on Dec. 27, in the Happy Jaycee Hall. It is barbecue and calf fries and then dancing to Tiny Lynn. Only a limited number of tickets will be sold.

See ya!  
Mary Neal



HOLIDAYS ARE A busy time for custodial department employees in the Canyon Public Schools as they spend a good portion of their holidays removing desks and chairs for a thorough cleaning of classrooms. Amidst the stacked chairs and student desks in the halls

of Rex Reeves Elementary School is Miss Laurie Parks, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Parks. Her father is principal for the elementary school where a pre-holiday fire increased the custodial workload for the holiday cleanup.

Arts And Entertainment  
Through The LookingGlass

By ANN MELIN

"Grandfather, all over the world the faces of living ones are alike. In tenderness they have come up out of the ground."

Black Elk's Prayer

Among the gifts received by several Canyon residents for Christmas was a unique and memorable one presented by Amarillo's Kwahadi Indian Dancers, a group of 32 Boy Scouts dedicated to preserving through song, dance and crafts, the vanishing Indian folk arts.

With thundering beat of drums, and accompanying pulsating chants, the dancers swept into two Canyon homes in a whirlpool of brightly-colored feathers and beads. After a presentation for guests gathered at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Ples Harper, the dancers flew away for a rendezvous at the residence of Dr. and Mrs. Jack Walker, where a host was also gathered to enjoy the "Christmas caroling" tradition given a Western and uniquely all-American touch.

Bill Walker, son of the Walkers and associate advisor for the Kwahadi Dancers, said that the two dance visitations in Canyon along with those to four Amarillo homes, were the Christmas presents the dancers chose to give to patrons and friends of the 30-year-old organization which was founded in Amarillo to commemorate the nobility of the Kwahadi Comanche, whose defeat in this region a century ago was the "final chapter in the story of the suppression of North America's Indian tribes."

The idea for the dance visitations, Walker said, was based on the Twelfth Night ceremonials of the Pueblo Indians of Taos. The Christian observance of the Epiphany is translated into Indian terms as groups of children perform a series of ceremonial dances, deeply significant in the native Tewa religion of the Pueblo, Walker said.

According to Walker, the Pueblo Indians seem to have successfully wedded Christianity with their native Tewa.

themelves a Christmas party. Walker said the group will be preparing for a series of presentations they will be offering beginning Jan. 17 at their headquarters located at Plains and Bellaire in Amarillo.

The Kwahadi group is a non-profit organization whose operating funds are derived exclusively from the profits from their dancing and Christmas tree selling.

Among the 32 dancers was Canyon Eagle Scout Rocky Stone, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Stone of 2419 Seventh Avenue. After each presentation, troop members presented Kachina dolls to their audience as Christmas gifts. Following their outing, the dancers returned to their clubhouse in Amarillo, traded in their Indian attire for their usual duds, and gave

themselves a Christmas party. Walker said the group will be preparing for a series of presentations they will be offering beginning Jan. 17 at their headquarters located at Plains and Bellaire in Amarillo.

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COW POKES

By Ace Reid



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**Jean's of Canyon**



## Service Provides Aid To Twenty Families

By Ann Melin

"The Week of Santelmas, Dec. 26-31: A week of recognition for those Santelmas who helped Santa's world-wide operation become as big a success as it was."

Chase's Calendar of Annual Events

"Gee, I don't know what to make of all this recognition," laughed Carmen Hernandez, the founder-director of the Canyon Community Family Service, the agency which collected \$816 to provide twenty needy families here with a "new start."

Mrs. Hernandez, the CCF's leg-worker, opened her spiral notebook and briefly summarized her week's activities, which included the receiving and dispersal of donations in many forms, the supervising of ten adoptions of needy families by local groups, the paying off of bills and rents for impoverished families, the payment of medical bills for the ailing, and so forth.

Pausing in the middle of her account of donations received and donations dispersed, Carmen Hernandez smiled shyly and admitted that she's been lately enjoying something like what she imagines it's like to be a "star."

It seems that Mrs. Hernandez has been receiving letters and tokens gifts from people all over the region who have heard or read about her organization and

her deeds.

"I even got a letter from the man I picked cotton for back in the Forties, when my family and I first moved to Canyon," Mrs. Hernandez said. "He congratulated me for my accomplishments and offered his service to the organization."

"And the other day, I was walking down the street and this woman comes up to me and says, 'Oh, it's that woman we've been reading about — may I touch you?' What a strange feeling that was, to have someone say such a thing!" Mrs. Hernandez giggled.

"And letters I've gotten say things like, 'You must be a wonderful woman, how I'd like to meet you.' Things like that make you feel kind of funny," Mrs. Hernandez said with a slightly-embarrassed smile.

"There's been gifts, too. Little tokens, nothing really big but they mean a lot to a person," she went on. "Like the little gift I got from this family when I went to give them \$85 for Christmas clothes. I mean there were tears in all of our eyes during the exchange."

Mrs. Hernandez went on to announce that for Christmas day, she was going to try to "stop" her charitable activities and treat herself to a Christmas at home with her family.

As of newtime, however, she wasn't sure if she could wangle a day of rest for herself.

"Must be a hard nut," after all, and Mrs. Hernandez said if any calls for help were to come in, well she'd just have to go out and look to them. Otherwise, she said she'd follow her plan of preparing a big ham dinner for her family, which includes husband Roberto, son Michael, 14, and daughter Maria, 26.

But with the Chamber of Commerce and the County Judge referring many calls of aid from their offices to Mrs. Hernandez' home phone, the Canyon woman said her plan to "stop for a day" could take any number of unexpected turns.

Ultimately led to the question, "Will the poor always be with us?" Mrs. Hernandez sighed, and shook her head back and forth. "Always, always, always... I seem to have learned through experience. Some will leave and others will come, some will fall away and others will be born."

### Siesta Noticias

By DORIS McKEE  
HERE I AM with a short bit of news from out Siesta way. Lots of people are off for the Christmas holidays.

WE DO WANT to express our deepest sympathy to the Jack Huddleston family. Vera's father, Jack Holcomb of Stephenville, passed away last week.

WE ALSO WANT to extend Buy, sell or trade with Canyon News SEEK ads.



SUNDAY WORSHIP FOR THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH of Canyon is being held at the Canyon Junior High School auditorium while a major renovation project is underway at the church.

## First Baptist Church's Renovation Project Moves Weekly Worship Services

Canyon's First Baptist Church is making a radical renovation of church facilities in a \$500,000 project which is expected to be complete by June of 1975, according to Rev. Darold Baldwin, acting pastor.

While the project is underway

Sunday worship services are being held at the auditorium of Canyon Junior High School at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Sunday church school hours are held in various places across town beginning at 9:30 a.m. with preschool students and grades 1-

6 holding classes in the Education Building as well as the Married Young Adults up to age 40. The College and Career church classes are held at the church parsonage, 1717 3rd Avenue, while the Canyon Junior High School auditorium facilitates Sunday School worship for adults in the 40-up classes, and the CJHS cafeteria is reserved for youth classes from seventh grade through high school.

Midweek services of the church include an all-church supper at 6 p.m. at the Youth Activities Building, 17th Street and 3rd Avenue, with 6:30 p.m. auxiliary meetings in the education Building and the 7:30 p.m. midweek prayer meeting at the Youth Activities Building.

The renovation project at the church will involve three major sections as the church office facilities are being moved to the church basement, the third floor is being remodeled for the youth departments and the present sanctuary is to receive new furnishings, have windows renovated and have the balcony removed so that the total congregation is seated on the same level. A new entrance to the sanctuary is being created on the east side of the building and work is being done by the Panhandle Engineers and Contractors.

## Holiday News At Siesta

our sympathy to Tex and Pat Reed. Mrs. Edward (Maude) Reed of Be-Dias, Tex. passed away last Monday. Tex and Pat spent the week in Be-Dias helping Tex's brother, Edward, all they could.

THERE WAS A Scout meeting last week at the Recreation Building.

We are trying to get a scout troop set up here. Any of you boys that might be interested, there will be a meeting the first week in January. Will post the date on the bulletin board. Come on down and take an interest.

LARRY AND NORMA Weeter had company this weekend. Norma's folks, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Langley of Phillips came for a visit.

By the way, the new white shutters really do add a nice touch to the home.

I CALLED PEARL West to see if she had any news. She said their son Jerry Allen came out Saturday afternoon for a visit. She said when he comes, that has to be news.

WANT TO WISH a couple of real characters Happy Birthdays.

First, Tex Reed had a birthday Saturday, the 21st. Don't know how old he was, but am sure he's at least 39.

And last but not least, sorry about that. I guess she is least, Eunice Rinehart celebrated her birthday on Monday the 23rd. She told me she was 99 — upside

down. Hope both of you have many, many more.

KENNETH AND DORIS Wallace made a trip up to Ruidoso last week. They spent one night, did some sightseeing, looked over the ski lodge and took lots of pictures. Doris said they had a real good time.

PECK RISNER CAME home from the V.A. Hospital in Oklahoma City on Saturday.

He had been there for surgery on his ear. He is doing well and feeling pretty good. Will just have to rest and take care for a while.

THE SEVENTH GRADE boys purple basketball team played Plainview on Thursday afternoon. Marty Hoffman plays on this team. He didn't give me the score, just said, Plainview defeated them.

I SPENT A couple of hours Monday visiting with a cousin, Betty Dollar, who is here for the Christmas holidays. She lives in Baton Rouge, La. and it had been over a year since I had seen her.

She, Joan Barnett of Amarillo and myself went to the cafeteria for lunch and a nice talk session. It is always nice to get together and relive some of the past.

I WOULD LIKE to sign off today with a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year wish for everyone.

THOUGHT FOR THE week: "Give gifts of love and happiness, they will last forever."

See ya.  
Doris McKee  
355-4133

### Pension Planning Course For Spring

The West Texas State University Department of Business Administration is offering four insurance classes and a pension planning course this spring semester.

"Property and Casualty Insurance," B.A. 213-01, will be held in Room 215 of the University Complex South beginning at 10 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The first class meeting is Jan. 20, and the instructor is Mrs. Leslie Pray.

"General Principles of Insurance," B.A. 210-3, will meet Thursday nights at 7 p.m. in

Room 211 of the UCS. Mrs. Pray will also teach this offering, as well as B.A. 210-3, "Liability Insurance Adjusting," whose schedule will be arranged after an organizational meeting Jan. 20 in UCS Room 209.

"Insurance Principles and Practice," B.A. 412-1, will be offered Monday nights at 7 p.m. in UCS Room 219 by Fred Leach.

The final course, "Pension Planning," will be given Tuesdays at 1 p.m. in Room 118 of the UCS listed as B.A. 21107-1, the course will be taught by Dr. Zeke Marchant.



Did Santa GOOF?

Wrong Size?  
Wrong Color?  
Wrong Style?

If he did, we'll gladly correct the mistake!

If Santa goofed on your Christmas gift, bring it to Anthony's. We'll exchange it for another item of equivalent value. And it doesn't even have to be from an Anthony's store. We'll exchange your gift. NO MATTER WHAT STORE IT CAME FROM, as long as it is similar to Anthony merchandise.

Anthony's  
PALO DURO VILLAGE

We Will Be Closed For Inventory  
Thursday and Friday Dec. 26th and 27th

HOWEVER

Any Necessary Business Will Be Gladly

Taken Care Of During This Time.

Thompson's of Canyon, Inc.

The Carriage House  
Shoes  
2304-Fourth Ave.

After-Christmas Door Buster

SALE . . .

FREE

Fall

HANDBAGS

Or Shoulder Bags

Values To \$17

With Purchase

Of Any

TWO PAIRS

Of Ladies

FALL SHOES

Values To \$28

We Really Haven't Lost Our Minds . . . Or Have We??

Over 800 Pairs of Shoes Included.

Over 300 Bags To Be Given Away!!

No Layaways Please —

CASH BANKAMERICARD MASTER CHARGE AMERICAN EXPRESS

West Texas State Bank

And

First National Bank

Will Be

Closed

Wednesday, January 1, 1975

In Observance Of

New Years.

Canyon Clearing House



# SEEK



## CLASSIFIED ADS GET FAST RESULTS

**CALL  
655-7121  
DEADLINE  
10 A.M.  
Wednesday  
10 A.M.  
SATURDAY**

**Christopher  
REAL ESTATE**  
1518 5TH AVE. CANYON  
**655-4354**

**CUSTOM HOME**  
2100 sq. ft. luxurious living area, living room, den, kitchen, dining area, large covered porch, custom drapes, central heating and air. We are not bragging — let's look. \$37,500. By appt.

\*\*\*  
**\$3,750**  
for this corner 150' w/utlities, 2 blocks from senior high.

\*\*\*  
**10 YR. PAY-OUT**  
Owner financed, 7 1/2%, 3 and 4 BR — Close to schools. \$2500 down, \$118.71 month prin. and interest.

\*\*\*  
**LOTS**  
Residential, commercial. Terms: Almost any size homes, duplex.

\*\*\*  
**HIDDEN VALLEY**  
120' x 300' plus lot, exclusive area.

\*\*\*  
**HUNSLEY HILLS**  
2 large custom homes. Goodies galore, formal living area, comfy dens, plain good living.

See Us For All Your Real Estate Needs  
Jim Christopher - 655-2637  
or  
Marcia Durden - 655-3228

### REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

One 2 bedroom house for sale, 508 26th St. Shown by appointment only. Canyon Realty, 655-9971; Ruth S. Prichard, 655-3971; Gene Bales, 655-2007; Ben H. Williams, 655-3537.

tfc16

### Firewood

N. Mexico Pinon  
Call

C. Boston—655-4169  
L. Hooper—655-7488

After 6 P.M. Week Days  
Or All Day Saturday.

For Sale — Nice country home, 4 bedroom colonial brick, 5 acres. Canyon School. 806-488-3474.

tfc34

Had a party? Or giving one? Tell The Canyon News about it. Telephone 655-7121, or stop by the News office on the south side of the square.

**the  
Davis  
Agency**

Real Estate  
Insurance  
Loans

### INCOME PROPERTY

Producing \$320.00 monthly income from 4 rental units. Good location with good potential for increased rents. Present loan pays off in 7 years. \$16,000.00.

### HIDDEN VALLEY

A very fine home for the large family. 5 BR, 3 baths, fireplace, refrigerated air, separate living room and den. Built-ins everywhere. Beautiful paneling. Drapes throughout. 2800 sq. ft. of living area. \$47,500.00.

### HOLLY LANE

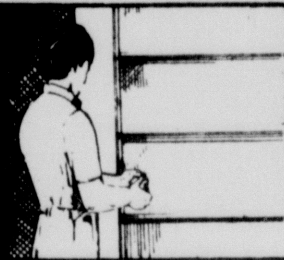
A really charming 3 BR built by Bob Fenley. 1 1/2 baths, 2 car garage, large living area, refrigerated air conditioning, 5% downpayment. Will handle with 30 year loan at 8 1/2%, \$25,000.00.

### NEAR UNIVERSITY

First time offered for sale. 3 BR, 2 baths, with double carport. A very attractive brick home in an excellent location. \$22,000.00.

Wm. B. Davis 655-2558  
Larry M. Hooper 655-7488  
Don Colley 655-7600

### SECURITY FOR YOUR PERSONAL BELONGINGS



### BAR-L SELF STORAGE

Forty-four secure individual lock and storage units... concrete block construction, steel partitions between units, steel roofs, steel doors.

Ten units ideal for storage of boats, campers, and unused furniture.

Thirty-four smaller units for business storage, small household items, motorcycles, and equipment.

Large units \$32 per month. Small units \$18 per month. Conveniently located at 1407 Hereford Highway, just west of Hunsley Hills.

### BAR-L SELF STORAGE

Phone 655-7200  
or 655-7100

### HUNSLEY HILLS



### AUTOMOBILES FOR SALE

Dodge pickup, '72 — 36,000 miles, loaded, big engine, bucket seats, air, radio, speed control, saddle tanks, topper, sticker at purchase, \$5,900. Price \$2,995. Old maid drove to church. 655-7827.

tfc38

**Bill Triplett  
Painting, Cabinet Work  
and General Repair  
655-7365 after 6:00**

1971 Caprice 4-door. Extra nice. Must see to believe. \$2000. 655-7244.

tfc36

For Sale: '68 Volkswagen, New engine, transmission, tires. 655-3310.

tfc14

### UPHOLSTERY AND FURNITURE REFINISHING CRAIG JOHNSON

306 16th St. Ph. 655-2504

### MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE

For Sale — Mobile home — 12 x 65, 3 BR, 2 bath, washer, dryer, stove, coolers. 655-4433.

tfc36

For Sale: Mobile home, 14 x 70, '74 model, like new. 655-4504.

tfc16

### MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

For Sale: Bailing wire, barbed wire, steel T-Post and fencing supplies. Consumers Fuel Assn. 655-2134.

tfc5

## HAD A CHECKUP LATELY?

Not you.  
Your house!

Needed home improvements  
can be financed with bank credit

**FIRST NATIONAL BANK**

In Canyon



Member of FDIC

### Electronic Air Cleaner Humidifier



Wayne Wirt  
Sales & Engineering

## End Fuel Worries With An All Electric Carrier Heat Pump

FOR ALL YOUR HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING NEEDS.

**CALL 655-2521**  
Nights 655-2200

### Furnaces Commercial Units



Terry Clark  
Service and Installation

## Let Us Answer Your Phone While You Are Away!

Secretarial Service And  
Photo Copying Available  
Answering Service  
Of Canyon Call 655-9131

Lynette Apartments next to WTSU campus, one and two bedrooms, furnished. 655-2001.

tfc38

Going somewhere? Or been? The Canyon News wants to know about it — and so do its readers.

## COMPLETE AUTO AIR CONDITIONER SERVICE

Engine overhaul,  
Transmissions,  
Brakes, Tune-ups,  
Complete Repair.

**BOB HORTON GARAGE**  
604 23rd  
655-3021

For Sale: Araucana chickens, produce your own health eggs. Low in cholesterol — high in protein. Hinders, Wayside, 764-2782.

tfc34

For Sale: School bus seats. 488-3673.

tfc16

### HOUSES FOR RENT

House for Lease: Three bedroom, study, 2 baths, centrally heated and air conditioned, fenced yard. 655-3647.

tfc16

## A.L. Crossland REAL ESTATE INSURANCE

LOANS ON HOMES AND FARMS

1911 Fourth Ave.  
CANYON, TEXAS

ANOTHER ready to move into for Christmas. Completely draped, landscaped. Immaculate. Large master suite plus two other bedrooms with bath. Large, comfortable den with fireplace, formal living room, big utility and pantry. \$37,500.

HEATED - SPARKLING POOL 3 BR's, Den, 2 Baths, LR, DR, Gameroom. Lots of extras.

QUALITY HOME  
Top condition, 3 BR, 1 1/2 Baths, 2 living areas. 7 1/2% loan. \$158 per month.

COUNTRY HOME  
with 6 Acres, 3 BR, 2 Baths, woodburner and A/C. Priced right.

BARGAIN  
for only \$10,600. Buy equity and assume loan of \$7,100 payable at \$89.89.

WE CAN SELL your home. List with us for fast efficient service.

655-3941  
655-2754

2 bedroom house for rent. Applicants furnished, bills paid, \$110. 655-4042, 655-2480.

2tc16

### APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Two bedroom studio apartment. Couple only. 352-5679, 655-9140 after 6 p.m.

tfc12

### MISCELLANEOUS FOR RENT

Large inexpensive trailer space near campus. 655-3569.

tfc28

Buy, sell or trade with Canyon News SEEK ads.

Carpenter: Cabinet work, remodeling and carpenter repair. Call Sam, 655-9580 after 6 p.m.

tfc2

Will do house cleaning. 655-3196.

3tc16

Had a party? Or giving one? Tell The Canyon News about it. Telephone 655-7121, or stop by the News office on the south side of the square.

## COMPLETE STOCK OF RADIATORS CAR, TRUCK AND TRACTOR CLEANING AND REPAIR

### MILLER RADIATOR SERVICE

612 JEFFERSON 376-6666 AMARILLO, TEXAS

### WANTED

Dining room help wanted. Able to work week ends. Apply in person at the Yum Yum Tree.

tfc10

Wanted — Paper route boys. Good routes open. 655-2220.

tfc39

Remodeling, built-ins, carpenter repair. Construction and assembly of small buildings. 655-9179.

tfc32

### MISCELLANEOUS

Cement Contractor: Storm cellars and flat work. Monte Chandler, 655-7308.

tfc27

Lose weight with new Shape capsules and Hydrex Water Pills. Ideal Drug.

8tp12

Going somewhere? Or been? The Canyon News wants to know about it — and so do its readers.

## Will Be Closed Dec. 22nd to Dec. 30th Floyd Automotive

425 B 16th Street Canyon 655-9601

"Homeworkers Wanted In This Area: Men, women, students. No experience necessary; stuffing and addressing envelopes (commission mailers). Earn sparetime money at home. \$100.00 weekly possible. Free details for long, stamped envelope. R. Cauthen, Box 836, Duncan, AZ 85534."

1tp39

Private home care. Home with nursing care. Special training to help the aged to live and enjoy their life. 2812 S. Washington, 373-4528.

8tp14

Trailer space — 2 blocks west of campus. Fenced, 2 car parking, outside storage, water paid. \$39.50, Pecos Park, 655-2631.

tfc14

15 MINUTES FROM AMARILLO  
**CANYON CREEK APTS.**  
in beautiful Hunsley Hills  
Rent from \$154, Utilities included

- Furnished or Unfurnished
- 1 - 1 1/2 - 2 Baths
- 1 - 2 - Bedrooms
- Drapes
- Carpeted
- All Electric Kitchen with Dishwasher and Disposal
- Swimming Pool
- Laundry Facilities
- Lovely Landscaping

**CHILDREN WELCOME**  
Take Hereford Exit to blinking light, turn North

Resident Manager 655-9611

Typist needed. Must be fast, accurate. Top pay. Raise when training completed. Canyon News. 655-7121.

tfc4h

Help wanted: Full or part-time LVN, all shifts open. Tulia Care Center, 995-4810.

tfc31

Roommate wanted. Help find house. For information, 655-2038.

tfc33

Fast, dependable color service. Britain's Studio, 1400 5th Ave. For portrait or other appointments, call 655-4433.

tfc9

Sewing machines repaired: 655-3874.

tfc38

Had a party? Or giving one? Tell The Canyon News about it. Telephone 655-7121, or stop by the News office on the south side of the square.

## ★ FARMERS ★ RANCHERS SEVEN DAYS A WEEK DEAD STOCK REMOVAL

PLEASE CALL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

## AMARILLO CANNING CO.

CANYON 655-3592 AMARILLO 335-2371  
YOUR LOCAL USED COW DEALER

## PLUMBING AND HEATING

Expert Repair Service  
Remodeling  
Contracting  
Water Heaters  
Sewer, Water  
or Gas lines  
installed or repaired

**E.J. Larson  
Plumbing  
and  
Heating**

604 25th St.  
655-3268

### LEGAL

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF VIOLA MAE BEHRENS, FORMERLY

VIOLA MAE GLASGOW  
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of Viola Mae Behrens, formerly Viola Mae Glasgow, Deceased, were issued to me, the undersigned, on the 21st day of October, 1974, in the proceeding indicated below my signature hereto, which is still pending, and that I now hold such letters. All persons having claims against said estate which is being administered in the County below named, are hereby required to present the same to me at the address below given, before suit upon the same are barred by the general statutes of limitations, before such estate is closed, and within the time prescribed by law.

My residence and post office address are:  
Elbert George Glasgow  
3604 Northeast 13th Street  
Amarillo, Texas 79107  
DATED this 16th day of December, 1974.  
ELBERT GEORGE GLASGOW  
Independent Executor  
of the Estate of  
Viola Mae Behrens, formerly  
Viola Mae Glasgow, Deceased  
No. 3099, in the County  
of Randall County,  
Texas, Probate Docket  
1tc39

By MILDRED TURNER  
YOU NEVER SAW such a sight as last Thursday when the Palisades ladies began to appear from the woods, bushes or across the creek laden with colorful packages and covered dishes. It seemed everyone was following her nose to the Vaughns', where an aroma of stuffed turkey and all the trimmings was ready.

As everyone added her special dish we had a wonderful Christmas dinner while visiting, watching the squirrels from the window, telling little festive secrets.

Beverly Strecker played a small organ and we all joined in the Christmas spirit of singing carols and exchanging gifts. I read an original poem called "Praise."

Pearl Vaughn showed us a lovely plant holder made of horse shoes made and given by her husband. She had made her youngest granddaughter Julie a doll house she had furnished herself. It was so clever and cute.

Those present were Jean and Stacy Penny, Estelle Atkinson, June Hooker, Beverly Strecker, Becky Guess, Vicki Hooker, Reba Guess, JoDelle Walker, Nell Moore, Greg Moore, Mr. Vaughn's sisters and niece Irene Stewart, Clara Stewart from Antler, Okla., Myrtis Webb from Oklahoma City, Corene Keen, Borger, and yours truly.

**PALISADES GROCERY IS**  
open now and doing fine. Let's all help keep it going. OK?

**THE REASON** I did not get my column in last week was Garland's Aunt Blanche of Paducah was in critical condition. She is not doing well at all. We also ran by Childress to see Garland's brother Leon and Aunt Mattie and Uncle Arthur Decker there in Paducah.

**NEWS FLASH: ANOTHER**  
reason I have been busy is I am getting ready for a wedding this Friday. Janet and Danny Joe (Mullins). Some of you have met him. I want you to be the first to know. She is having an untraditional small original wedding and will be featured with a picture in the Canyon News soon.

**THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** at the Center was just beautiful, featuring Johnny Flash, a New York reporter (Jerry Don Mullins) who was supposedly interviewing people in the olden days who knew Christ or heard of Him. The young men had grown beards, the young ladies dressed as peasants, studied hard and did their parts well. The children were used on a very dimly lit center stage to portray the story in shadows on a sheet for a screen. It was a wonderful effect, unique and a beautiful way to portray the most exciting and greatest love story of the ages. Merry Christmas all.  
M.T. 622-0701

Relaxed luxury living with a flair.

Total electric apartments, fully carpeted, with all bills paid. Dishwashers, air conditioning, garbage disposers, new laundry equipment, with several barbecue units available. 18-hole golf course, tennis courts, private club facilities also available. All this overlooking the lush, quiet beauty of Hunsley Hill.

1 bedroom unfurnished \$150 per month, bills paid. 2 bedrooms unfurnished \$165 per month, bills paid. Furnished apartments also available.

Come join us for exciting, comfortable living. Come join us at

## Cambridge House

655-7200  
or 655-7100





# Medical Examiner Office Eyed

Should a team of medical and criminal investigation experts be available in Randall and Potter Counties to provide accurate and timely information on suspicious or unusual deaths which occur in the two-county area?

While formation of just such a team — a medical examiner office — is being studied by a committee of the Potter-Randall Medical Society, efforts in that direction were viewed coolly recently by Randall County commissioners, who would be called on to foot a portion of the bill for such a system.

What is apparently a renewed effort to generate enthusiasm for the formation of a medical examiner system in the two counties was discussed only briefly, but with something less than enthusiasm, by commissioners.

Already strapped for funds, the commissioners said they are not particularly anxious to become involved in a system which could cost as much as \$100,000 per year to maintain.

County Judge Woody Pond characterized the effort to form a medical examiner system for the two counties as an attempt by the medical society to "create more jobs."

That, according to Dr. Louis Finney, prime mover in the effort to form such a system, is most certainly not the crux of the matter.

Finney said the establishment of the system in the two counties would make available trained and expert people to investigate deaths. It would replace the current system, which has the justice of the peace acting as coroner and making the determination of cause of death.

Finney said of the about 1200 deaths per year in the two counties, 20 per cent are investigated through the elected coroner system — by a justice of the peace.

Sixty-five per cent of the residents of Texas are now under a medical examiner system with most of the major population centers using medical examiners rather than justices of the peace to make death determinations.

Lubbock County is now considering going to a medical examiner system.

Finney said a committee of the medical society has met with Potter and Randall County commissioners, with representatives of the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission, with district attorneys, and with medical examiners from other parts of the state to examine the possibility of establishing a program here.

As envisioned right now, the program might initially deal with only the two metropolitan counties. But, Finney said, it might also extend to the other 29 Panhandle counties.

Even with all 20 counties, he said, the program might call for only a part-time staff.

A pathologist, field investigator and toxicologist would be needed to staff a medical examiner's office, he said.

The current goal of the group, he said, is to see if the two counties could afford establishment of the program, to determine if manpower is available and finally to establish a program to assist local law enforcement agencies.

Funding appears to be a main drawback.

Finney said application has been made for a state Criminal Justice Council grant to begin operations of the medical examiners system. If start-up funds are available, he said, funding required from the two counties would be less. Start-up costs could reach the \$12,000 figure, he said, and operation of the office would take between \$70,000 and \$80,000 per year.

Finney said there is no particular rush in establishing a medical examiner system. Last month, county commissioners were given an accounting of the legwork done so far on the project and he believes they're "beginning to realize this is an item they will make a decision on at the right time, an idea to keep them informed on so when they think it is the proper time we can go ahead and do it."

A controversy over the need for a medical examiner's office has been raging in Lubbock centered on the mysterious death of a prominent citizen.

Galveston, Dallas, Houston and El Paso now have medical examiner offices.

## Dowlen...

(Continued from Page 1)

der in Houston.

Then, there's been Jim Blair, now in private practice in Amarillo, Dick Dambold, Harris Hampton, Bob McClendon, Mill McKinney and his successor, Randy Sherrod.

Dowlen's career in the courthouse has not been always successful, though. And, on those occasions when he's lost, he's felt mighty low.

"Probably the worst and the lowest I ever felt was back in 1964 when I tried a runaway from Boys Ranch named Buddy Fesmire," he said. "The case had Fesmire run away with another boy and get into a running gun battle with the Highway Patrol and city police up on South Washington in Amarillo and an Amarillo patrolman was killed and Fesmire's companion was killed."

Fesmire, then 16, could not be tried as an adult so he was sent to the state reformatory to await his 17th birthday, but not before he had given police a full and detailed confession of his duplicity in the killings.

A U.S. Supreme Court ruling changed the law on confessions in 1964-65 and when Fesmire returned for trial, Dowlen learned that the boy's confession could not be introduced as evidence.

"Fesmire proceeded to testify to an entirely different story than he gave us in the confessions," Dowlen said. "He was acquitted and some months later he killed his father, his brother and his best friend in Oklahoma."

The freeing of Fesmire to murder again was a deep disappointment to Dowlen.

"For one thing he was guilty and for another because of a technicality and an opinion by the Supreme Court which had thoroughly confused everyone on what was and what wasn't needed in his confession, his confession was just thrown out."

Dowlen's tried some other cases which particularly spark his memory.

His first felony conviction was of an itinerant farm hand who raped a 3-year-old stepdaughter here in Canyon. A life sentence was mandated for Anthony Zilka, who has since tried to obtain his freedom and failed several times.

Outside the courtroom, Dowlen also has some good memories of his job and he's done some things over the years which, while not in the rule book, have proven to improve the lot for some folks.

"I have over the years gotten myself into situations that I've handled in a way that the law was not set up to deal with," he said. "Like the college freshman from a small town around here who gets drunk or gets into a trouble for some violation where a conviction would just mess him up forever, where it would destroy his career." Dowlen recalls. "I'd put him on DA's probation and tell him if he was ever in trouble again I'd prosecute him on everything I could."

"I guess I've done that on several hundred cases and there's just been two where I ever had to go ahead and prosecute."

He's seen some other good things, too, like the dedication of local law enforcement officers.

"No one unless they've worked with our law enforcement people here can appreciate how good and solid they are," he said.

Dowlen is critical, though, of some of the roadblocks he feels have been placed in his way and the way of effective law enforcement.

The rules on admissibility of oral confessions he terms an anachronism.

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Leon C. Horton, the Dallas Financier convicted of theft by false pretext here in December 1971, is eligible for parole from the Texas penitentiary, and Dist. Atty. George Dowlen says he will protest any parole effort for the convict.

Horton, who has served fewer than three years behind bars, was found guilty in early December 1971 on one count of theft by false pretext and later pleaded guilty to similar charges in Dallas.

He was sentenced to serve a 10-year term, the maximum allowable by law, by a Randall County jury. He received four 10-year prison terms after pleading guilty to similar charges in Dallas. But, the Dallas terms were set to run concurrently with the Randall County sentence.

Horton had been found guilty of the charge in this county after the state proved he had forged

stock certificates in a North Randall County bank and then put them to his own use.

"I will protest the parole of Horton," Dowlen said Monday.

The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles routinely asks prosecutors, judges and sheriffs, for their opinion on pending paroles.

Dowlen said he usually relies on the parole board to determine whether a convict should be freed. But, he said, in cases of unusual circumstances of grave seriousness, he might protest release of a convict.

"In Horton's case, he got, and I feel this we well established, over \$300,000 at a minimum," Dowlen said. "Three years in the penitentiary means he's being paid for his crime at a rate of \$100,000 per year, which I don't feel is right in any shape, way or form."

Dowlen noted that \$300,000 in funds Horton was reputed to

have taken have not been returned or found.

Dowlen headed up the prosecution in a three-day, well publicized trial for the Dallas businessman in November 1971 after Horton had been indicted by a county grand jury.

Dowlen contended and the jury apparently agreed that Horton had forged a power of attorney for the trial's mystery man, Robert "Tex" Roberts, a wealthy Dallasite who has been missing for more than five years.

With the power of attorney, he transferred stock which had been in Roberts' name over to his own account, the stock was sold and the money went to Horton, according to Dowlen.

Dowlen said that amount along with \$200,000 more has never been returned. Likewise,

Roberts has never been found.

After Horton was convicted in Randall County, he was turned over to the Dallas County prosecutor's office who held indictments on four similar counts.

But, Dowlen said, the prosecutor in Dallas agreed to allow Horton to plead guilty to the charges and accept 10-year sentences.

But for an apparent attorney's error, Horton would have come up for parole about six months ago, Dowlen said.

He said shortly after the Randall County conviction, Horton's Houston attorney filed an intent to appeal, which effectively blocks an effort for parole. Not until two months ago was the attorney's mistake caught and the appeal intent withdrawn.

Dowlen said he's not sure how much impact his protest will have on the Horton parole decision. He said the parole board generally honors a protest the first time a convict comes up for parole.

## County OKs Fire Pact

County commissioners gave an initial go-ahead Monday to begin implementing a county-wide fire fighting proposal which backers say would save the county money.

The commission action followed a Friday vote by members of the ad hoc Randall County Fire Protection Committee approving a program put together primarily by Commissioner Paul Landsey which centers around the Canyon Volunteer Fire Department.

The plan, if fully implemented, would put Amarillo's fire fighting units on a stand-by or back-up status on rural area fires in the county. Currently and for the past year the county has paid Amarillo more than \$800 per call to answer fire alarms in the rural areas north of Hollywood Road.

The plan brings all the fire fighting units together into a formalized system, with systematic plans for fire calls.

Key points of the plan include: "Canyon Fire Department, with the most manpower and equipment and a centralized location, will assume fire fighting and associated operations for the entire rural area. The department will act as clearing house for fire fighting, including rescue calls, and will stand ready to respond alone or back up any calls of member agencies. Canyon's first response area will be in the rural area which can be better served from Canyon."

"The Amarillo Fire Department will respond in the area immediately adjacent the Hollywood Road region or any reported structure fire or other alarm such as a rescue call. "It is the intent to relieve the Amarillo Fire Department from the responsibility of making the small car, grass, trash or other as-

sociated calls in the rural area so they might keep their large city-type fire fighting apparatus... in the city limits. . ."

"The Umbarger, Happy, Lake Tanglewood and Bushland departments will respond to fires in their immediate area on a first-response basis."

"The Randall County sheriff's office will assume responsibility for dispatching fire units for the fire plan. The dispatcher will notify the fire department closest to the fire and will then notify the Canyon Fire Department of his action."

"The Canyon fire department will make available its training officer and training field to members of the rural fire departments and will develop a rural fire training program."

"Each department will fill out a form on each fire and the forms will be compiled for a monthly report to the county commissioners."

Landsey said the county must secure a signed contract from each of the member fire unit governmental bodies before the plan can be implemented. The contracts will deal with monetary compensation for the fire plan costs.

The county will give the Canyon department its used radio equipment for use as a fire fighting net to link the member agencies.

In addition, the county will purchase a 5000 gallon water tank truck for use by the Canyon Fire Department in implementing the plan.

"It is . . . felt that the recommendations will provide a very good level of fire protection for the citizens of rural Randall County and will utilize the tax dollar spent on fire protection to the very best extent possible," Landsey reported.

# Dowlen Will Protest Parole For Convicted Horton

the unyielding contoured prosecutor's chair at the table below the bench.

## Local...

(Continued from Page 1)

tax office is combined with the independent school district tax office, any moves to alter the school financing picture could affect Canyon as a city.

What the legislature decides to do about financing public education in Texas is of major concern to Supt. Jerry Jacobs and is expected to be a major and hot issue when the legislature begins deliberation.

At least four plans have been presented for debate by various groups, including the Governor's Office.

The Texas Board of Education has also compiled 14 legislative proposals for changes.

The board's recommendations include:

- \*Continued and increased funding for crime prevention and drug abuse education programs in grades kindergarten - 12.
- \*General appropriations funding for driver education instructors, operating costs, equipment and administration.

- \*An option to allow local school districts to purchase school buses directly rather than through the board of control.

- \*An amendment to the Texas Penal Code to make any threat or act of violence against school personnel an unlawful act and setting penalties at Class B misdemeanor levels.

- \*Funding for a pilot project for year-round school attendance.
- \*Funding of pilot programs for community education.

Jacobs said another bill being considered for presentation to the legislature would call for abolition of county school boards in Texas unless paid for from local funds sources.

## Salaries Due Eye Today

County commissioners are to meet again at 10 a.m. today to continue a marathon executive session spree to discuss county employees' salaries for 1975.

Commissioners met last Friday and again Monday afternoon in closed session to discuss salaries. They met Monday with county elected officials to discuss their recommendations for salary adjustments for employees.

Commissioners are not expected to make a formal announcement on their proposals for the next fiscal year until their first meeting in January, the usual time for salary setting.

The unusual executive sessions were prompted by a rise in the cost-of-living index to well above levels previously planned by commissioners. They had funded an across-the-board 6 per cent salary hike for all officials and employees in their 1975 budget during meetings last August.

But, County Judge Woody Pond has said commissioners, realizing the 6 per cent figure would not meet the rise in the cost-of-living, wanted to review the proposal.

They were also expected to discuss during the closed meetings a detailed personnel policy designed by Bill Francis, Amarillo auditor for the county. The policy includes job descriptions and specific salary allocations for specific tasks or jobs.

County officials indicated in News interviews last week they will probably not be happy with minimum across-the-board raises. Most said they will ask for substantial raises for themselves and their employees.

R

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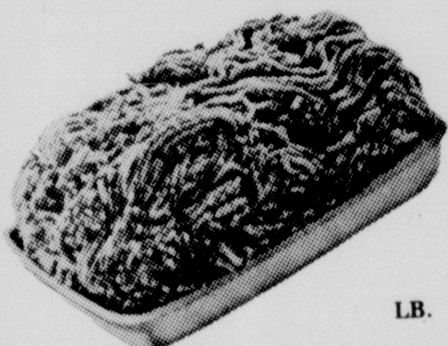
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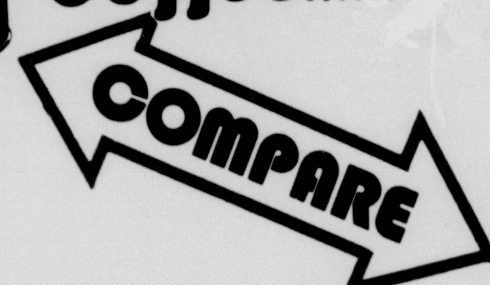
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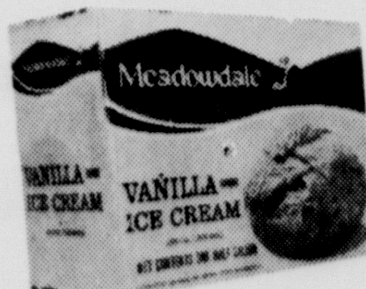
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